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16 March 1960

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MEMORANDUM MINUTES OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

16 March 1960

The Commission met, pursuant to notice, at 9:30 am, with David E. Finley, Chairman, presiding.

Present were: David E. Finley, Chairman

Douglas W. Orr

Ralph Walker

Felix W. de Weldon

Peter Hurd

L. R. Wilson, Secretary

Susan E. Bennett, Adm. Asst.

Gilbert E. Halasz, Stenotypist

SUBMISSIONS

1. General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service

a. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 17th Street, Between
New York Avenue and F Street, N.W.

Mr. Rowland Snyder, Director, Architectural and Structural Division, General Services Administration, Public Buildings Service, introduced the architects for this building, who presented plans, elevations and two partial models, showing alternate wall treatments. The architect, Mr. Leon Chatelain, described the design in detail for the members, after which they emphasized their views that a building occupying such an important location near the White House and Executive Offices, should be more dignified and should occupy less of the site. After discussion of the design, the members thanked the architects and said they would formulate their views in a letter after reviewing it further. After the visitors retired this was done. The members said that they recognized that special materials and some set backs had been used, but they believed that a more monumental building was required, with ample space for landscaping, as was exemplified in other buildings on 17th Street, such as the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the DAR Building, and the buildings of the Pan American Union. Any governmental or quasi-governmental building erected on this 17th Street site will be visible from the White House Grounds and the Ellipse and should be designed to take its place among the other buildings extending southward to Constitution and westward to the Potomac River. The members of the Commission also pointed out that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation should have followed the example of other similar agencies, such as the Federal Reserve Board, the National Academy of Science, and the American Pharmaceutical Association, all of which were willing to erect headquarters buildings on locations where they

contributed to the development of the plan of the city.

The Secretary was directed to summarize these views and to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature, to the Administrator of General Services Administration, recommending that, if Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is going to occupy this location, plans for the building should conform to the standards followed by the other quasi-governmental agencies in this area. A copy of this letter was to be made a part of the record of the proceedings.

EXHIBIT A

b. Department of Labor Building, 6th and C Streets, N.W.

The members of the Commission considered a further revision of the design for the penthouse of the proposed Labor Department Building at Sixth and C Streets, N.W., to house the Bureau of Employment Security.

It was noted that the suggestions made at the meeting on January 20, 1960, had been incorporated into the design, which was now reduced in height and had rounded ends. The members of the Commission felt that the design was satisfactory, and they approved it as presented.

The Secretary was instructed to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature, a copy of which was to be made a part of the record of the proceedings.

EXHIBIT B

2. Old Georgetown Board, Meeting with Members of the Commission of Fine Arts

The newly appointed members of the Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown, Mr. Walter M. Macomber and Mr. Henry H. Saylor, met with the members of the Commission of Fine Arts, to discuss the re-activation of the Georgetown Board of Architectural Consultants. The third member of the Board, Mr. G. A. Purcell of the District of Columbia Department of Buildings and Grounds, was unable to be presented. The Chairman thanked the members of the Board for their willingness to resume their services which they felt impelled to withdraw under the strict interpretation of P.L. 808/81st Congress, imposed by the D.C. Corporation Counsel's opinion of 6 March 1957. Now that this opinion had been superseded by the U. S. Attorney General's opinion on P.L. 808 of 15 January 1960, it was generally believed that another attempt should be made to administer the law, at least until the fate of the proposed amendment of the Act is determined.

EXHIBITS G1, G2, G3

3. Old Georgetown Act, Preliminary Submission - "Georgetown Inn" Hotel Proposed at Wisconsin Avenue and N Street, N.W.

Mr. Milton Fischer, of the firm of Corning and Moore, presented further designs for the proposed Georgetown Inn, which will be built in Square 1231, where it will front on Wisconsin Avenue, and also be visible

from N Street, N.W. A preliminary stage of this design was discussed at the Commission meeting on December 16, 1959 when Mr. Fischer presented an elevation and a perspective drawing of the Wisconsin Avenue facade. At that time the Commission stated that there was no objection, on its part, to a building of this type in Georgetown, but pointed out the problems inherent in making so large a building compatible with its location and with the provisions of Public Law 808/81st Congress.

The Board of Architectural Consultants had reviewed the new design and had referred it to the Commission for joint review at this time. The members of the Commission shared the Board's views that the revised designs were rather disappointing. The long, unbroken facades, the almost square shape of the over-large windows, the steep mansard roof and the great number of dormers gave the impression that the end result would be a commercialized and stereotyped building. It was agreed that the developed drawings lacked the interest and freshness that seemed to be promised by the first sketches.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter for the signature of the Chairman, to the architect, requesting that a restudy be made in an attempt to reduce the scale of the parts by introducing breaks into the long facades, and by designing the windows, dormers, and roof-line, in a more domestic character, and further suggesting that the large flat arch on Wisconsin Avenue be reduced in width. A copy of this letter was to be made a part of the record of the proceedings. EXHIBIT C

4. American Battle Monuments Commission - Neuville Cemetery, Treatment of Chapel Wall

General North, Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, and Colonel Walker, presented a new design for the north facade of the chapel at Neuville Cemetery. The General recalled that the idea of having military insignia carved in high relief in the stone of the wall, had been abandoned, as had a later idea for the sculpture of a youth standing on a pedestal. The present submission showed a large urn on a pedestal, with an inscription above it on the wall of the chapel. The members of the Commission considered that the design of the urn was also unsuitable and recommended that this scheme be abandoned also.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature, to the Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission, confirming the views of the Commission. A copy of this letter was to be made a part of the record of the proceedings. EXHIBIT D

5. District of Columbia Government, Department of Highways and Traffic

West Leg of the Inner Loop - Francis School and P Street
Beach (M Street to Massachusetts Avenue)

Mr. Harold Aitken, D.C. Director of Highways and Traffic, met with the Commission to discuss the preliminary plans for the segment of the west leg of the inner loop which was to extend from M Street to Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

The members told Mr. Aitken that they were glad to see this project in its early stages, and noted that this plan was a relocation of a previous route projected through this area running south of the Francis School property, which lies adjacent to and immediately south of Rock Creek Park.

The Commission told Mr. Aitken that they could not approve this plan, which would destroy, for recreational purposes, an area of park land which was widely used by the people of Washington. They stated again, for a matter of record, that they had never approved the Inner Loop System, which they felt, provided only a partial solution to the traffic problem in Washington, and might defeat the purpose of a rapid transit system as well as result in irreparable damage to the appearance of the city. The members felt strongly that if the Inner Loop system was to be extended here, this route, which would sacrifice recreation and park lands, should not be used.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature, to the Engineer Commissioner for the District of Columbia, setting forth the views of this Commission on this subject. A copy of this letter was to be made a part of the official record of the proceedings.

EXHIBIT E

6. District of Columbia Armory Board, Revised Elevations for D.C.
Stadium

Honorable Robert E. McLaughlin, President, District of Columbia Board of Commissioners; Mr. Arthur J. Bergman, Manager, District of Columbia Armory Board, and various other representatives of the Armory Board and the designers, met with the Commission with regard to the model and drawings of the final design of the proposed District of Columbia Stadium. The architect explained the features of the design and the members of the Stadium Board emphasized that no further time could be spent on design and they were satisfied with the design and considered that it would set a pattern for future stadiums. The members of the commission were unanimous in expressing their disappointment with the final designs of the stadium and also with the fact that the building schedule for the stadium was so urgent that no further study could be given to the design. The Chairman stated that, under the circumstances, there was nothing further the Commission could do about the matter, and the members agreed

that they were in no position to interpose further objection to the design, although they could not give it their approval.

They recalled that the only previous submission of this project had been made without allowing time for review or possible revision, and they stressed the fact that unless drawings were submitted before designs were fully determined, it was impossible for the Commission to make constructive criticism.

The Secretary was directed to prepare a letter for the Chairman's signature, to the Chairman, District of Columbia Armory Board, emphasizing that the Commission could not take responsibility either for the design of the building, for the site, or the extensive use of park lands for parking cars, all of which could not fail to have a restrictive influence on plans which had been projected for the development of the East Mall from the Capital to the Anacostia River.

EXHIBIT F

The Commission adjourned at 1:00 p.m.


L. R. Wilson
Secretary

Met of the Commission of Fine Arts
16 March 1960
9:30 A. M.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

9:30 a.m. 1. CONVENT, ROOM 7000, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING

Minutes of 16/17 February 1960 - Action on

9:30 a.m. 2. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE:

✓ a. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, 17th Street
between New York Avenue and F Street

✓ b. Department of Labor Building, 6th and C Streets, N.W. app.

10:00 a.m. 3. OLD GEORGETOWN BOARD

✓ Meeting with members of the Commission of Fine Arts

10:15 am. 4. OLD-GEORGETOWN ACT

✓ Preliminary Submission - "Georgetown Inn" Hotel Proposed
at Wisconsin Avenue and N Street, N.W.
(Mr. Milton Fisher, of Corning and Moore)

10:45 a.m. 5. AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION (Major General Thomas
North, Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission)

✓ Neuville Cemetery - Treatment of Chapel Wall
sculpture to be carved in wall

11:15 a.m. 6. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
AND TRAFFIC:

✓ Inner Loop Freeway - West Leg - Francis School and P Street
Beach

12:30 p.m. 7. D.C. ARMORY BOARD (Mr. Robert E. McLaughlin, President, D.C.
Board of Commissioners; Mr. Arthur J. Bergman, Manager,
D. C. Armory Board)

Revised Elevations for D. C. Stadium

29 March 1960

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 16, considered revised designs for the proposed Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Building on 17th Street between New York Avenue and F Streets, Northwest. The architects of the building presented plans and two partial models showing wall treatment.

The members of the Commission felt that, in view of its important location so near the White House and Executive Offices, the building should not occupy so much of the site and that it should have greater dignity as the headquarters of a quasi-governmental agency, rather than the appearance of a commercial office building. They also wished to register at this time their preference that this site should be reserved for the expansion of governmental offices of the Executive Department.

The members feel that, as a quasi-governmental agency, the selection of the site and the design for the headquarters building of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation should have followed the example set by other similar agencies, such as the Federal Reserve Board, the National Academy of Science, and the American Pharmaceutical Association. All of these agencies were willing to erect their headquarters buildings on locations where they contributed to the development of the plan of the city. Will you advise us whether the site plans have been approved by the National Capital Planning Commission?

In view of the importance of the location at New York Avenue and 17th Street, adjacent to the Executive Offices and the White House, overlooking the ellipse, the members of the Commission believe that a building is required of a more monumental character with suitable space for landscaping as is the case of other buildings on 17th Street, such as the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the DAR Building, and the buildings of the Pan American Union. Any governmental or quasi-governmental building that is erected on the 17th Street site should be designed to harmonize with the other buildings extending southward to Constitution Avenue and westward to the Potomac River.

The members of the Commission recommend that plans for a building on this site should conform to the standards followed by other quasi-governmental agencies in this area.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

Honorable Karl E. Wallace
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

David E. Finley
Chairman

EXHIBIT A

Page 100-100000

The history of the Commission of the European Communities is a story of the struggle for the realization of the European dream. It is a story of the struggle for the realization of the European dream. It is a story of the struggle for the realization of the European dream.

The Commission of the European Communities is a body of independent members, elected by the European Parliament. It is a body of independent members, elected by the European Parliament. It is a body of independent members, elected by the European Parliament.

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For the Commission of the European Communities

Director General

Director General

Director General

Director General

24 March 1960

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 16, considered the revised design for the penthouse of the Labor Department Building at 6th and C Streets, N.W.

It was noted that the suggestions made at the meeting on January 20, 1960, had been incorporated into the design, which was now reduced in height and elliptical in shape. The members of the Commission felt that the design was satisfactory and they approved it as presented.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Karl E. Wallace
Commissioner
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT B

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The members of the Committee on the part of the
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29 March 1960

Dear Mr. Fischer:

I am writing to confirm that the members of the Commission of Fine Arts conferred with you, at their meeting on March 16, regarding the design for the proposed Georgetown Inn, which will be built in Square 1231, where it will front on Wisconsin Avenue and also be visible from W Street, N.W.

You will recall that a preliminary stage of this design was also discussed with you at a Commission meeting on December 16, 1959, when you showed the members an elevation and a perspective drawing of the Wisconsin Avenue facade. At that time, the Commission stated that there was no objection on its part to a building of this type in Georgetown, but it pointed out the problems inherent in making so large a building compatible with its location and with the provisions of Public Law 808/81st Congress. The members of the Commission noted that you had approached the problem sympathetically and had the intention to utilize appropriate materials and design features.

In the new drawings, which you had presented to the Board of Architectural Consultants for Georgetown on March 8, 1960, the difficulty of the design problems was very apparent. The long, unbroken facades, the almost square shape of the over-large windows, the steep mansard roof and the great number of dormers gave the impression that the end result would be a commercialized and stereotyped building. The developed drawings lacked the interest and freshness that seemed to be promised by the first sketches.

The Commission and the Board of Architectural Consultants hope, therefore, that you will restudy the facades, and make an attempt to reduce the scale of the parts by introducing breaks into the long facades, and by designing the windows, dormers, and roofline, in a more domestic character. It is further suggested that the large flat arch on Wisconsin Avenue be reduced in width.

The Board of Architectural Consultants will, of course, be glad to confer with you further on this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Mr. Milton Fischer
Corning and Moore
1302 18th Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

EXHIBIT C

23 March 1960

Dear General North:

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on March 15, were glad to confer with you and Colonel Walker regarding a revised treatment of the north facade of the chapel at Neville Cemetery.

It was recalled that the original drawings of the chapel showed military insignia carved in high relief in the stone of the wall. This treatment was abandoned and replaced by a free standing figure of a youth standing on a pedestal.

At its meeting on July 17, 1959, the members of the Commission decided that while the figure of the youth was well designed by a highly competent sculptor, it seemed misplaced against the chapel wall, and they recommended that it be placed in this or in some other cemetery in more suitable surroundings.

The present submission showed a large urn on a pedestal, with an inscription above it on the wall of the chapel. The members of the Commission considered that the design of the urn was also unsuitable and recommended that this scheme be abandoned also.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Major General Thomas North
Secretary
American Battle Monuments Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

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25 March 1960

Dear General Welling:

At their meeting on March 16, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts conferred with Mr. Aitken and Mr. Brinkley regarding the preliminary plans for the segment of the west leg of the Inner Loop which will extend from M Street to Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest.

The members of the Commission were glad to see this project in its early stages. They noted that the plan under consideration was a revision of a previous route projected through this area to run south of the Francis School property, which lies immediately south of Rock Creek Park. This will destroy for recreational purposes an area of park land which is widely used by the people of Washington including both children and adults.

The Commission unanimously agreed that they could not approve such destruction of park lands which, in this area, once destroyed cannot be replaced. The Commission has never approved the inner loop system which, it feels, provides only a partial solution to the traffic problem in Washington, and may result in irreparable damage to the appearance of the city. The members feel strongly that if this system is to be extended, another route should be found which will not sacrifice recreation and park lands from M Street to Massachusetts Avenue.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Brigadier General A.C. Welling
Engineer Commissioner for the
District of Columbia
District Building
Washington 4, D. C.

cc-Director, D.C. Department of Highways and Traffic

EXHIBIT F

25 MARCH 1960

Dear General Wright:

As this letter is dated 15, the members of the Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers, who are interested in the subject of the proposed new highway through the city of Washington, D.C., are interested in the subject of the proposed new highway through the city of Washington, D.C.

The members of the Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers, who are interested in the subject of the proposed new highway through the city of Washington, D.C., are interested in the subject of the proposed new highway through the city of Washington, D.C.

The members of the Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers, who are interested in the subject of the proposed new highway through the city of Washington, D.C., are interested in the subject of the proposed new highway through the city of Washington, D.C.

Very truly yours,

(Signature)

John W. Fisher
Chairman

Director, Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers
1115 North 17th Street
Washington, D.C. 20001

cc-Director, U.S. Department of Highways and Traffic

ENR 100

28 March 1960

Dear Mr. Shea:

I am writing to confirm the statement made at our meeting on March 16, when the members of the Commission of Fine Arts conferred with the members of the Armory Board and the designers, to consider the model and drawings of the final design of the proposed District of Columbia Stadium.

The members had been shown the drawings and photographs which had been forwarded to them at your request previous to the meeting. They had studied the drawings and met with your representatives with the expectation there would be an opportunity for suggestions that would improve the character of the design. They considered that the new design had lost much of the dignity and simplicity shown in the small sketches that were sent to the Commission as part of the "Engineering and Economic Study-District of Columbia Stadium." It was, therefore, disappointing to learn that the building schedule for the Stadium was so urgent that no further study could be given to the design. Under the circumstances, there was nothing the Commission could do about the matter. We did not insist upon delays and imposed no further objection to the design, as submitted, although we cannot give it our approval.

Unless drawings are submitted before the design is fully determined, it is impossible for the Commission to make constructive criticism. Under such circumstances, the Commission is placed in a position where it cannot discharge the responsibilities imposed by law which require that the advice of the Commission be sought before final decisions are taken. In this case no opportunity was given to make recommendations regarding the final design until it was ready to be submitted for bids.

While the Commission's recommendations are advisory only, the members asked me to state that they could not take any responsibility either for the design of the building, for the site, or the extensive use of park lands for parking cars, all of which cannot fail to have a restrictive influence on plans which have been projected for the development of the East Mall from the Capitol to the Anacostia River.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable George F. Shea
Chairman
District of Columbia Armory Board
Washington 3, D. C.

EXHIBIT F

The first of the series of articles in this issue is by Dr. J. H. ... and Dr. ... who discuss the ... of the ... in the ... of the ...

The second article is by Dr. ... and Dr. ... who discuss the ... of the ... in the ... of the ...

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13 March 1961

Dear Ambassador:

Thank you for your note which I received this morning. I am sure you would be pleased to receive my letter of appreciation, and the willingness of the Commission of Fine Arts to contribute substantially to the Old Georgetown Art in accordance with the wishes of the Advisory Council. We hope that the work will be greatly facilitated by the Board of Architectural Landmarks for Georgetown, which will include Mr. Taylor, Mr. Macdonald, and Miss M. Carroll of the Department of Buildings and Grounds, who has been appointed to this work by the Board of Commissioners at the request of the Commission of Fine Arts.

I am not sure that I can identify the draft of the Art referred to in your letter of March 14th, which was approved by the Progressive Citizens Association of Georgetown. We have a copy dated June 2, 1959, which was prepared by Mr. Thomas and his associates. I assume this is the draft referred to in your letter.

Sincerely yours,

David C. Foster
Chairman

Mr. Ambassador, 3rd
Floor
Progressive Citizens Association of Georgetown
1001 1st Street
Georgetown, D. C.

NEWS RELEASE

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON: 20 January 1960

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts noted the Opinion given to the President by the Attorney General, Mr. Rogers, with reference to the construction of the Old Georgetown Act (64 Stat. 903).

The Opinion given by the Attorney General is in accordance with the Commission's understanding of the intent of Congress. If cooperation is given on the part of all agencies concerned, the Commission feels it would be possible to carry out the provisions of the Act.

NEWS RELEASE

COMMISSION OF TIME ARTS
700 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

FROM: INSTITUTE OF RELIGION

WASHINGTON: 20 January 1960

The members of the Commission of Time Arts

Opinion given to the President by the Attorney General, Mr.

Report, with reference to the construction of the Mid-America

and the (1953).

The Opinion given by the Attorney General is in accordance

with the Commission's understanding of the intent of Congress.

If cooperation is given on the part of all agencies concerned,

the Commission feels it would be possible to carry out the

provisions of the Act.

The system given by the Attorney General in 25 November 1919, the Cardinal's recommendation of the Island of St. Vincent. It requires in part to be paid of all goods imported, the money of the Cardinal will continue to be in order out the provisions of the law.

The Commission has added the former members of the American Board of Architectural Commissioners to serve as Secretaries and Mr. William H. Brewster and Mr. Henry H. Taylor, have accepted their assignments to the new temporary duties. The chief clerk will be Mr. Charles L. Fernald, assistant and subject officer, U. S. Department of Fisheries and Commerce, who has been detailed by the District Commissioner to work on this Board.

The Congregation Field is an important to preserve the architectural and character of the Congregation area. The residential of this section of Washington, which has been in the hands of the same family since the 18th century, is a valuable example of early colonial architecture and is a fine example of the early colonial style. It is a large number of small and waterless small houses with gardens, many of architectural excellence, but the value of taxable property in this area

are gradually increasing in the Department and several of our members
wish to see that of the future.

For those who are not members of the very small group of our members
by the way, the members of the Department will continue to receive the
Department's publications as usual, and will continue to receive them
under the old Department name. It would be possible for the
members of the Department of the future to receive them, and the
Department is now and is now by the Department of the future.

